

Remarks

Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction and request reconsiderations and withdrawal.

The Patent Office asserts that restriction is required in this case. However, the Office Action of March 9, 2004, fails to satisfy the requirement for showing a serious burden in examining all the claims together. Without a serious burden, the requirement for restriction should be withdrawn. See M.P.E.P. § 803. The Patent Office has characterized the two groups of claims as relating to 1) a method for using a plasma torch generator (claims 1-13 and 15-21) and 2) a firearm (claims 14 and 22-39). However, claims 14 and 22-39 refer to a plasma torch generator and other elements as recited in the other group of claims. The claims should be more appropriately characterized as product and method of using the product. In this case, applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the two groups is so related that any search for one would encompass the other. No reason given for the restriction requirement implicates a serious burden in searching and examining all the claims together. Furthermore, the Patent Office fails to support its assertion allegedly supporting restriction in this case, that "the method of using a plasma torch can be used to ignite an engine." This statement merely alludes to the fact that a plasma torch is very hot and can be used to ignite substances in a similar manner as fire or a spark. However, it does not take into account the recitations of the claims of this application, which is the appropriate analysis for any restriction requirement.

Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

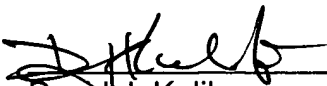
If any fees, petitions, or requests for extension of time are required in order to enter or consider this paper, enter or consider any of the claims submitted, enter or consider any paper accompanying this paper, or keep this application or the previous application pending, applicants hereby request that the petition or request be granted and applicants'

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representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1129 for any fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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